

REMARKS

ON THE

Reverend Dr. HANCOCKE'S

Febrifugum Magnum.

WHEREIN

Are shewn the Absurdity and In-
consistency of the Doctor's Rea-
soning, and the inevitable Dan-
ger consequent upon the Use of
Cold Water in Fevers.

*Redde Caput Virem, cum a liene cum stibis ad omne
In tua quod fandi Cornua possit erit.*

Ovid.

*Potus Aque sumptus comedenti incommoda praestat,
Hinc friget Stomachus, crudus & inde Cibus.*

Omne tulio Panctum qui miscuit utile duci.

Horat.

By JAMES GARDNER, M.D.

L O N D O N.

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REMARKS

ON THE

PROGRESS OF THE

REVOLUTIONARY

PERIOD

IN THE
REPUBLIC OF
THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

BY

JOHN

ADAMS

ESQ.

OF THE

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS



THE
Epistle Dedicatory.

To the *President, Censors, and*
the rest of the *Fellows* of the
Royal College of Physicians.

GENTLEMEN,



THE Matter in Debate between the Reverend Doctor and me falls principally under your Cognisance, you are the only proper Persons to whose Protection I can commit what I have offer'd against his Notions. Whether the Performance is worth your Acceptance, you your selves can best determine. I might

The Epistle Dedicatory.

indeed have dress'd up these REMARKS in a different Manner, but thereby I should have displeased some, as well as I shall at present, for you know in Matters of this kind, it is impossible to write any Thing that will please the Taste of all. Some may be of Opinion, that I have said too little, and others I doubt not will think with me, that I have taken greater Notice of the Doctor's Febrifugum Magnum than it really deserves. Let this be as it happens, the Preservation and Recovery of the Health of the Publick is a Matter of too great a Concern to be so far neglected, as not to ingage us to offer something to oppose that which has a direct Tendency to frustrate our Endeavours, for obtaining so valuable an End. As trifling as the Essay is, it has found a surprizing Acceptance, nor are there wanting some whose Education might have given them a better Taste, that defend our Author's Notions, and espouse his Cause. For the Sake of these I have taken some Pains, to shew that the Doctor is entirely unqualified to dictate in
Phy-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Physick, and therefore that whatever is offer'd by him in our Way, ought to be very much suspected.

There is not any Profession so much abused as that of Physick, nor is there any Nation whatsoever, so stupid as to give Encouragement to every silly Pretender to Physick as England. Should any Enthusiast fancy himself gisted, and dare to mount a Pulpit, in order to communicate his Knowledge to the Populace, the Clergy immediately stand upon their Guard, take due Care to oppose the bold Attempt, and speedily suppress the presumptuous Invader of their Rights. The Gentlemen of the long Robe are under proper Restrictions, and none can be admitted to the Bar, but by a just Observance of the Circumstances previously necessary for the obtaining of such an Honour. 'Tis Physick alone that is invaded by all, and even vilified by the Ignorance of the Pretenders to it. Tho' all acknowledge that Life and Health are the most valuable Blessings, yet these very Advantages affect

The Epistle Dedicatory.

fect the Regard of the People of this Nation the least. Were a Suit of Law depending about some Matter of the smallest Account, such is their Concern for their own Interest, that none but the ablest Counsellor must be feed ; yet such is their Madness, that, when their Life and Health lies at stake, they'll fly for Help to a WEBB or a WIGGINS, neither of whom understand any more of Physick than my Father's Coach-Mare.

GENTLEMEN,

You are all appris'd of the Truth of what is here asserted, as well as I, and often complain of these Grievances, but consider not the Spring from whence they flow ; and therefore take no Care to redress them. Were I to give my Sentiments about this Matter, I would dare to affirm, that the Cause of all these arise from your selves ; and that you are the Source from whence these Evils flow. You have a Charter, by which you are empower'd to defend your selves, and secure

The Epistle Dedicatory.

cure the Honour of your Profession. But this you indolently forget, nor ever put in Execution the Laws against Empiricks and Pretenders as you ought, and are capacitated to do. Such as are qualified to enter into your College, you are enabled to oblige; but several there are who keep their Chariots, and get Estates by their Practice, but of these you take no notice; whereas you cramp such whose Circumstances won't allow the necessary Sum, as account it an Honour to be a Member of your Society.

Dat veniam Corvis, vexat Censura Columbas.

You have Statutes by which you are engag'd to refuse a Consultation with any Pretender, yet do not many of you consult with Mr. Butler, whom you lately rejected as unqualified; with Mr. Siffertson, and the celebrated Mr. Douce, all which Gentlemen are Surgeons, who ought to live by their own Profession, without intermeddling with the Practice of Physick, since they have never had an Academical
Edu-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Education, which is previously necessary to qualify them for such an Undertaking? By this you stamp a Value upon their Practice, and give an Addition to their Character. No wonder therefore that the Populace, who are no Judges of their Qualifications, should repose their Confidence in them, when they find You think them qualified to be your Partners in Practice.

Another Cause of the Disadvantages under which the Generality of Physicians labour, is, the Exorbitance of your Fees. The meaner sort of People cannot defray the Charges arising for the constant Attendance of Physicians, according to the present Method; therefore they are obliged to have Recourse to Apothecaries, Surgeons, and other Pretenders, who either cry out, NO CURE NO MONEY, or bargain for the Cure at a set Price. Hence it is that the Ignorant are constantly employed, while Gentlemen of a Regular Education can't get their Bread; and that of the whole Faculty, about Twenty have

The Epistle Dedicatory.

have a Superfluity of Business, while others equally, if not better qualified, lie buried in Obscurity. If the Fees therefore were reduc'd to a lower Rate, none of common Sense would ever employ the Illiterate; whereas at present they are as it were oblig'd to it. Besides this, there is another which gives Encouragement to this Procedure of the Populace, and that is the Method of Prescribing usual among some, wherein because they are oppressed with a low and servile Fear of disobliging the avaricious Apothecary, they are too often more solicitous in promoting his Interest, than in regarding that of their Patients: Hence arise exorbitant Bills for things of little Value, which so terrify the People, that if they have once suffered this way, they commonly take due Care to avoid paying again both high Fees and exorbitant Bills.

The next I shall assign is your publishing the Treatises which you write in the English Language, or translating the Latin Authors into an English Phrase. By this you expose your Art to every old Nurse and
a Cham-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Chamber-maid, and teach Coblers, Scriveners, and Tinkers, to dictate with Arrogance in the Physical way. Culpeper, Salmon, Peachy, and Quincy, God be praised, are dead! By these our Profession has been expos'd, and our Practice ruin'd. O may no such Plague ever befall the Faculty again! But for the future, let him be for ever esteem'd a QUACK, who presumes to discover the Art of Physick in an English Stile.

The last that I shall mention is your allowing so many Bills and Advertisements to be dispers'd in the publick Streets, and published in the News-Papers. This, Gentlemen, is the Scandal of our Nation, the Ruin of our Constitutions, and the greatest Encouragement for all manner of Villany. By this Practice of the Miscreants, who are their Authors, our Youth is corrupted, our Servants are debauched, and our National Blood is tainted with the Venereal Poison. Against this you object, That 'tis not in your Power to prevent this. I affirm it is. For would you but
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The Epistle Dedicatory.

concur to represent this Nuisance in a proper Light to the Parliament, to the Justices of the Peace for Westminster, and the Lord-Mayor and Board of Aldermen, no doubt but such Measures would be taken, as should for the future put an effectual Stop to such Abuses. It is their Duty, I confess, to suppress these Enormities; but 'tis YOUR Province to remonstrate to them the Disadvantages that arise to the Nation, by allowing such Papers to be published.

GENTLEMEN,

YOU see I have not pursued the common Method of Dedications: And had I done it, I should have only exposed my self to Censure, since your Practice and Works are too glaring an Evidence of your Abilities to want the puny Recommendation of such a Pen as mine. What I have written to you is no Way to promote my own Practice, for indulgent Providence has blessed me with a handsome Fortune, capable to support me with Respect independent
of

The Epistle Dedicatory.

of it. But for the Sake of other Gentlemen, who are far more deserving of Practice than I, yet labour under the greatest Difficulties; I hope therefore you will readily and vigorously concur to promote the Honour and Practice of Physick, by correcting those Abuses I have now mentioned, than which nothing I'm sure will be a greater Pleasure to the Members of our Faculty in general, and particularly to,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most humble

and most obedient Servant,

James Gardner.



REMARKS

ON

Febrifugum Magnum.



THE Essay which the Reverend Doctor *Hancock* has been pleased to publish upon the Use of Common Water, in the Cure of Fevers, under the Title of *Febrifugum Magnum*, having obtained so general a Run among the Populace, some Remarks upon his Treatise will not, I hope, be an unacceptable Entertainment to the Publick. What the Author has advanc'd upon this Head, is, I am inclinable to believe, offer'd, with-

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out

out any the least Design of prejudicing either the Faculty of *Physick* in particular, or the Publick in general, but with a View of promoting, as far as in him lies, the common Good of Mankind. However, the Doctor must remember, That there is in *Physick*, as well as in Matters *Theological*, what we call a *Zeal* without Knowledge, and that such a *Zeal* is very often of fatal Consequence. Whether this be our Author's Case, or no, will be fully apparent by the ensuing Remarks.

What the Doctor has propos'd in this Essay, is deliver'd in a very loose and unguarded Manner, and, at the same Time, with a prodigious Air of Sincerity; by means of which, together with the mighty Opinion that generally attends whatever is offer'd by one of his Function, no small Detriment may ensue to the ignorant and unwary, unless timely prevented. For the obtaining of which End, the following Remarks are offered to the Publick. The
Doctor

Febrifugum Magnum. 3

Doctor cannot, I'm sure, think himself any way aggriev'd by such an Attempt, since he himself has generously inform'd us, *Page 19.* that *He believes we have now a Set of as learn'd Physicians as ever we had, or, perhaps, ever shall have; by any of whom (he says) he shall take it as an Honour to be civilly corrected.*

The Method therefore I design to take in these Remarks, shall be this, *viz.*

- I. I shall examine the Character the Doctor has been pleas'd to give of himself.
- II. I shall consider the several Notions upon which the Doctor has founded what he advances.
- III. I shall take some Notice of the several Matters of Fact which he has communicated to the Publick.

In Prosecution of the two former Heads, if I be not very exact in quoting

ting the Pages according to their Order, I believe I shall be readily pardon'd, since the Doctor himself obliges me to transgress that Order, not having been very solicitous in observing a Method.

I. Our Author, in order to prepare his Readers for what he designs, to propose and pre-engage their Judgment in his Favour, in *Page 3.* tells us ----- *It may (and perhaps justly) be wonder'd at, that he who is no Physician should pretend to give any Directions about the Cure of any Disease.*

I assure the Doctor, that (to use his own Phrase) it is not to be wonder'd at all. Has not his Reverend Brother, the most learned, ingenious, and eloquent, Mr. *Masse*y, dabb'd in the same Way? Has he not made the Method of managing the Small Pox, the Subject of a Sermon, and wittily and merrily inform'd us, that he is of Opinion, the Devil *inoculated Job*, in order to deter

Febrifugum Magnum. 5

us from a *laudible* Practice? Has not *Tanner*, the Popish Priest, oblig'd the World with a *Practical Scheme*, a Treatise on the Plague, which he has had the Insolence to dedicate to the *President* of the College, with several other Pieces of no less Value; all which, for the publick Good, he generously bestows *Gratis*? Has not *Cam* deliver'd us a learn'd and succinct Account of the Venereal Disease, with the proper Method of Cure? Has not the wondrous *Marten* publish'd a Treatise, Of the Diseases of the Head, of the Vapours in Women, and Melancholy in Men, by the Reading of which any one may be able to cure themselves? Have we not seen a Catalogue of Cures, recommended to the Perusal of the Publick, by the wonderful Mr. *Wiggins*, the Shoe-Maker of *Leaden-Hall-Street*, wherein the Character of his Diet Drink, seems to be abundantly superior to that given by our Doctor to *common Water*? Have we not dai-
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6 REMARKS ON

ly Advertisements from *Wright* the
 Scrivener of *Bell Savage Yard*, *Rayner*
 the Surgeon in the *Minories*, *Chamber-*
lain the Surgeon of *Well Close Square*,
 the Author of the *Sympathetick Compo-*
sition for the Gout in *Crane Court*, *Moor*
 the Apothecary in *Ab-Church Lane*,
 with Crowds of others, learnedly set-
 ting forth the surprizing Efficacy of
 their Remedies, and the Abilities they
 have for curing various Distempers?
 Does not the very knowing and witty
 Mr. *Richard Webb*, lately a Regimen-
 tal Surgeon, but at present Clap-Doc-
 tor in ordinary to the Post Office Gene-
 ral, as also *Dearing* in *Spittlefields*,
 daily prescribe and practise Physick,
 for the Relief of distressed Mortals?
 In a Word, is there an Apothecary,
 or old Nurse in the City, that will
 not, upon all Occasions, boldly pre-
 scribe, and give Directions for the Cure
 of unhappy Patients.

O the glorious State of Physick,
 when Divines, Scriveners, illiterate
 Sur-

Febrifugum Mugnum. 7

Surgeons, Apothecaries, Weavers, Shoe-Makers, and old Nurses, jointly concur to give their mighty Assistance, and generously contribute to promote both its Theory and Practice! And O the Happiness of regular Physicians, who have the Honour to stand in Competition with such a Crowd of worthy Philosophers, for the Title, and distinguishing Name of their Profession! A Name formerly so little in use, that only Princes, Kings, Philosophers, and Physicians, were dignified with the Title; but now so common, that tis not only assum'd by every little Pretender, either to Surgery or Pharmacy, but indifferently given by every impertinent Coxcomb, to Surgeons, Apothecaries, Farriers and Barbers, who are constantly saluted by the Title of Doctor.

But it may be objected, That there is a wide Difference between our Author and these, for the one publishes his *Panacea* fairly, without the least Desire,

fire, or Expectation of Reward, whereas the others, with a mercenary View of Gain, conceal their Remedies as wonderful *Arcana*.

Certainly there is ----- For these constantly attending their Patients, and being for some Time conversant in such Cases, stupid as they are, may possibly luckily hit the Case, which, if they do, they'll be sure to take due Care to blaze it abroad, that the World may not be insensible of it: But by the Influence which the Canonic Robe constantly obtains over the Minds of the Populace, and the Air of Candor, and Regard for the Safety of Mankind, with which the Doctor has communicated his Method: The generality of the common People, who seldom or never are any way acquainted with the proper Cautions and Circumstances in which such Things, altho' useful in themselves, ought to be us'd, are unwarily prevail'd with, heedlessly to rush on to their own Perdition.

Our

Febrifugum Magnum. 9

Our Author having thus bespoke the Favour of his Readers, and fairly remonstrated the Difficulty of the Task, in which he was engag'd, generously proceeds, lest our Wonder should happen to be too great, of which I have prov'd there can be no Fear, to give us an Account, P. 16. *that for the first seven Years of his Studies he read, he believes, as much of most Parts of Physick, as most did, that never had a Thought of making a Business of it; and had then a pretty good Collection of such Authors as were then well thought of.*

Why, this is no more than the learned Mr. Webb and Wiggins themselves affirm, and highly necessary it is, that they should give such Relations of their Industry and Capacity. For unless by such Means as these, they, and the rest of their Fraternity, captivate the Mind of their silly Adherents, it were impossible that Mankind could be deluded by them to their own Disadvantage.

After this he very candidly proceeds in the same Page to give a further Relation concerning himself, namely--- *As he was going to draw up a very short Account of his long Experience, as to the Cure of several Sorts of Fevers, and his firm Belief that the Remedy, if used in Time as he would direct, would cure the Plague: He found he had forgotten the most common Terms in Physick, the very Names of the most common Simples and Compositions, and other Things; and that he should be forc'd to talk more like a Fool than a Physician.*

Had the Doctor been of my Mind, he would readily sav'd himself the Trouble of giving this Account to the World, for if I be not very much mistaken, few or none who are any Way acquainted with the several Branches or Parts of Physick, will conceive any other Opinion of our Author's Performance, or even be induced to believe that he ever had any Notion at all of what he pretends to have had.

How-

Febrisugum Magnum. II

However, lest this open Confession should make too strong an Impression upon his Readers Minds, he thinks it proper to wheedle them up again to a good Belief of his Capacity ; he tells us, P. 17, 18. *he has within these last six Months read over Dr. Sydenham with Attention and Pleasure. That he has lately light on Vander Heiden, De Aqua frigida, sero Lactis, & Aceto : And that he has indeed look'd into a great many Physick Books, both Antient and Modern, so far as Indexes could carry him.*

One might think that the holy Scriptures would have been a more pleasing Entertainment to this grave old Gentleman, since Preaching the Gospel of Jesus is his peculiar Province ; the various Commentaries upon these, the Fathers, the Ecclesiastical History of the Antients and Moderns, and the Canons, should, one would be apt to believe, sufficiently employ his Hours, without allowing him Opportunity to dabble in the Theory or Practise of Physick.

Augustine should rather engage his Thoughts than *Hippocrates*, and *Atanasius* much more readily than *Diemerbroek*. Had he spent his six Months upon *Poole's Synopsis Criticorum*, and *Clark's Critica Sacra*, instead of *Vander Heiden*, I am apt to believe it would have turn'd more to his Advantage. In a Word, the Perusal of the *Cambridge Concordance* would have been a proper Amusement than the reading of medical Indexes, or even of his beloved *Sydenham* himself. Durst I presume to give Counsel to so grave a Gentleman, I would advise him to quit such roving Thoughts, and to apply himself closely to his own Profession. Let him leave Physick to those Gentlemen whose Province it is, and cease to be solicitous to kill for God's Sake. For I assure him, that a Discourse upon Faith and Repentance would have been abundantly more becoming his Character than a silly Treatise upon the Use of Water, and that Dr. *Waterland's* Defence of his

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Febrifugum Magnum. 13

Queries will be read with Applause, when poor *Febrifugum Magnum* will be hissed at with Scorn, and condemn'd to discharge such Duties and Services as are necessary in the Jakes. Had he been swoln with the Conceit of having made some new Discovery, or considerable Improvements in a Matter which might prove an Advantage or Benefit to the Publick, an Account of it in a Letter to the *Royal Society*, would have (if valuable) found a favourable Acceptance, and have answered all the Ends he could possibly propose without the least Fear that it might be of any dangerous Consequence.

II. The Design of our Author in his Pamphlet is to recommend to the World the *cool Regimen*, and particularly the Use of cold Water in Fevers; in order to stamp a Value upon what he says, he mentions several considerable Authors, who authorize the same, such as *Hippocrates, Galen, Riverius,*

verius, Sydenham, Pittairne, Friend and Mead. Upon this I would be very willing to know how he comes to be so very solicitous about the cool Regimen, since he finds it so well established already by the Authority and Practice of such able Physicians. By quoting these Authors he plainly acknowledges that the Faculty were sufficiently apprised of all this before his *Febrifugum Magnum* was ever publish'd. Now they, having always these Authors in their View, and being constantly conversant in the Matters treated of by them, must certainly be allowed the best Interpreters of their Works. The Populace he must confess are not proper Judges, not being previously instructed in the Studies necessary to qualify them for making a due Determination. Consequently our Reverend Doctor, instead of doing Service to the Publick, has contributed to its Disadvantage, by ensnaring silly People to their own Destruction; and instead of advancing natural Philosophy,

Febrifugum Magnum. 15

sophy, or the Practice of Physick, he has only said what has been often mentioned and practised before.

But the Doctor objects, P. 18--*Indeed I have looked into a great many Physick Books, both Antient and Modern, and cannot find the least of my Notion, and so can produce no Authorities.*

The Doctor's Way of Reasoning here is much of a Piece with what is to be met with thro' his whole Performance. His Argument is this, I could not find in the Indexes that I read for the Space of six Months, any Author prescribe cold Water for Sweating, therefore none but my self ever did. In order therefore to shew that our Author has no Right to lay Claim to this Notion as his own, I shall produce a Passage or two wherein it will fully appear that cold Water has been frequently used for the same Purpose. The first is in Chap. 9. of *Prosper Alpinus de Medicina Egypticorum*, where *Guilandinus*, P. 46. says--*Audio etenim (quod olim,*
cum

cum Cayri moram facerem, etiã observavi) in singulis fere corporibus ab ipsis copotis Aquis, statim vel copiosas urinas vel sudores vel per alvum dejectiones observari.

The Second Passage is *Alpinus's* Confirmation of what *Guilandinus* advanced in these Words, P. 46. *Confirmo tuam sententiam, atque me in omnibus corporibus observasse, citissime illas aquas Cayri clarefactas, vel per Alvum vel per Urinam, vel Sudorem exiisse.*

A little lower in the same Page, the same Author expresses himself thus; *Mibi verò Aquam illam per Urinam, atque sæpissime per Sudorem exire continebat.*

But what seems most to our Purpose, as it comes nearest to the present Case, and appears to square with the Doctor's Method and Practice, is what follows in the same Page, *viz. In æstivis caloribus nocte qualibet sæpissime ob sitim intensissimam, qua omnes tunc temporis ex calore ambientis cruciantur largissime sæpissimeque*

Febrifugum Magnum. 87

pistoneque ex Aqua bibebam, à qua semper in copiosissimum Sudorem statim erumperebam, ita ut quoties ex ea ebiberem toties semper exudarem.

Besides these, some kind of Proof may be brought to shew that the Doctor is mistaken from what he advances, P. 6. wherein he says, *Many Writers confess the Antients gave Water in Fevers.* And P. 1. He informs us, that *Galen advises his Patients to drink Water till they look pale with drinking it.*

Upon this it will not be improper to propose, To what Purpose shou'd he advise such plentiful Draughts, unless it were to promote some copious Secretion. Sure he cou'd not be so stupid as to think that such a Quantity taken, cou'd be of any Service, unless an equal Quantity were discharged, in Consideration that his Patients are already too much oppressed with an over-bearing Quantity of Humours. *Galen* was too well acquainted with the Mechanism of the Human Body, and the Operation
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of Medicines, not to know that by the Descent of such a Quantity of cold Water into the Stomach, there must immediately arise a Constriction of the Canals of the whole Body. Whence proceeds a stronger Vibration of the Arteries, and greater Impulse of the Heart, by Means of which the circulating Fluids being hereby diluted, must be more forcibly driven to the utmost Extremities, by which the Obstructions being removed, and the Pores made more patent, a Discharge by the several secreting Canals, particularly those of the Skin, must consequently ensue. Can it then be supposed, since this Account is so natural, that Galen shou'd be unapprised of it, and without such a View prescribe what otherwise must at first Hearing be disallowed by the common Sense of Mankind. Tho' indeed our Author, who seems intirely ignorant of the Method whereby Water produces a Sweat (because he nowhere accounts for it) and appears to

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Febriifugum Magnum. 19

condemn *Galen* for prescribing that which he himself recommends, is unacquainted with the Matter; yet I see no Reason why I should suppose That admirable Physician under the same Circumstances with this dogmatical Gentleman.

In P. 42. Our Author takes a Cold to be a beginning Fever. Let me therefore ask the Doctor whether or no he has not often heard, a Draught of cold Water, in which a sic'd Pippin has been infus'd, prescribed as a proper Remedy when going to Bed? He readily confesses he has. To what Purpose then is this intended, but to dilute the Humours, unbend the too tense Fibres, dissolve the acrimonious Salts, that rend and irritate the tender Vesicles of the Lungs, and carry them off by Sweat, and insensible Perspiration? The whole Difference therefore between him and others, is, that he will have cold Water only, and they choose to have a Pippin with it.

From what has been offer'd upon this Head, I believe it appears pretty manifest, that the Doctor has but very slight Pretensions to the Notion which he claims as his own, and that he cannot much boast of his great Improvements of it: I proceed therefore to set in a clear Light, the several Matters, upon the erroneous Conception of which, he has founded the whole of his admirable Performance.

In P. 6. He tells us---- *And some object that such cooling Things beget Obstructions: Which is, I think, only quite contrary to Truth----* Observe his Reason---- *For I fear most of the Obstructions of the Canals in the Bodies, both of Men, and those that are peculiar to Women too, come from a preternatural Heat and Driness of the Blood and Juices.*

If, as he affirms, only most of the Obstructions of the Canals proceed from the preternatural Heat and Driness of the animal Juices, there certainly must be some, that take their Rise from the
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Febrifugum Magnum. 21

contrary Qualities of the said Juices. How then can it be only quite contrary to Truth, that cooling Things give rise to Obstructions. And because the Reverend Doctor has got a panic Fear upon him, that most of the Obstructions in the Canals, owe their Original to a preternatural Heat, must we therefore without any further Reason, entertain the same Fear, and rush into the Belief that cooling Things cannot beget Obstructions? If the Doctor had any particular Cause or Reason for his Fear, good Nature might have prevail'd with him to make a Discovery of it to the Publick, the which is altogether incumbent upon a Physician, and more becoming a Philosopher, than to assert without any Shew of Reason. But now I recollect, he is in some Measure to be pardoned, for he himself, P. 15. has generously acknowledg'd-----*That he is no Physician, and but a Smatterer in any kind of Philosophy.* Had he considered that whatever is capable to destroy

stroy or lessen the Elasticity of the Canals, and render the Motion of the Fluids languid, must certainly occasion Variety of Obstructions, in Consideration that the Particles of the flowing Fluids have hereby a greater Opportunity of uniting into larger Globules; The which Globules, the Vessels (having now lost their Spring) not being able to comminute, must necessarily bung up the Orifices, prevent Perspiration, distend the Vessels, raise Tumours, or, in other Words, occasion Obstructions. Now all this is performed by the repeated or indiscreet Use of cold Water; consequently cooling Things create Obstructions, which is the Point that was to be demonstrated.

At the End of P. 7. Our Author informs us, that Dr. Pitcairne says, that *Bleeding both promotes the Circulation, and takes away the Viscidity of the Blood* Upon which he thus comments—*It promotes the Circulation indeed while the*

Febrifugum Magnum. 23

the Blood is flowing, but he himself is forced to confess, it flags the more after.

Our Commentator here is egregiously mistaken in two different Respects, namely, 1. In that he denies that Venesection or Bleeding, as he calls it, promotes the Circulation: And, 2. In that he does not understand the Meaning of Dr. Pincairne. That Phlebotomy promotes the Circulation of the Blood in the Vessels is plain, for the Blood being hereby in some Measure emptied, the remaining Mass must certainly be less, consequently the flowing Blood meeting with less Opposition before, has the less Resistance to overcome; therefore loses less of the Force impressed, consequently has a quicker Motion, or in other Words, the Circulation of the Blood is promoted. Again, by this Inanition of the Canals, the Distention of the Vessels is taken off, their Spring is restored, the Compression of the lateral Canals is removed, upon which

which Accounts the Obstacles lying in the Way being no more, the less Resistance is to be overcome; now supposing the same Quantity of Spirits as before, to be transmitted into the Heart, in Consideration that the Blood has an additional Impulse communicated to it, not only by the increased Spring of the Vessels in which it moves, but by the enlarg'd Elasticity of the surrounding Vessels also, it cannot be denied but that the Motion of the Blood must be quicker, therefore the Circulation of the Blood is promoted by Venesection, which is the Proposition that was to be proved.

His second Mistake is, in that he does not understand the Meaning of Dr. *Piscarne*, for that Gentleman confesses indeed that the Motion of Blood after Venesection is slower than the Motion of it while the Blood is flowing, namely, because of the inconsiderable Resistance it meets with, but no where allows that its Motion after Bleeding flags, or is slower

flower than the Motion it had before Venesection was ordered, which is the Notion of our Author, but entirely contrary to the Truth, as I have already demonstrated.

In the Sentence immediately following the former, P. 8. he proceeds thus
 --- *And as to curing its Viscidity, I confess I have no Notion how parting with six, eight or ten Ounces of Blood, can much affect the Viscidity of the Blood all over the Body.*

A strange way of Reasoning indeed !
Because he who, as he confesses, is no
Physician, and but a *Smatterer* in any
kind of *Philosophy*, has no Notion of
the Matter, does it therefore follow,
that Venesection can have no such Ef-
fect? Dr. *Pitcairne* asserts indeed, that
Breathing a Vein takes away the Visci-
dity of the Blood, but neither menti-
ons the Quantity, nor how often the
Operation should be repeated, leaving
both one and the other to the Directi-
on of the Physician, according to the
E Cir-

Circumstances of the Case before him. However, notwithstanding our Author is ignorant of the Matter, it is nevertheless evident, that taking away such a Quantity as he mentions, carries off the Viscidity of the Blood. For if ten Ounces be evacuated, the remaining Mass must be less, the Distention of the Vessels is in some Measure taken off, the Elasticity is restored, the Motion is quicker, the Commination is greater, Obstructions are remov'd, Secretions are enlarged, consequently therefore the Viscidity of the whole Mass must gradually decrease, which is the Point that was to be proved. If the Doctor is willing to see a larger Account of this Matter, I refer him to the several Authors that have treated on this Subject.

Under the same Head, P. 18. He expresses himself thus---*But then on the other Hand, I can hardly believe that the taking away six or eight or ten Ounces of Blood, in the Beginning of a Fever, can do any great Good.* Here

Febrifugum Magnum. 27

Here again we are plagu'd with an Account of what he can't believe ; as if his Belief in Matters Philosophical was to be the Standard of our Reason. Sure the Doctor can be induced to believe that, after a Vein has been open'd, and ten Ounces taken away, the remaining Mass is by so much decreased ; it therefore follows, as has been already demonstrated, that the larger Vessels are less distended, the smaller are less compressed by a considerable Degree, Elasticity is restored, the Circulation is promoted, Obstructions are removed, and the Secretions, particularly that of Sweat or insensible Transpiration, are encreased ; wherefore the Quantity of the remaining Humours is lessen'd, the Particles of the circulating Fluids being now less crowded, occupy a larger Space, the Point of Contact is diminished, their Cohæſion or Attraction is less, their Attrition is weakened, consequently the Heat of the whole Body, which is the Effect of Attrition,

is in a great measure abated; wherefore the Fever is much lessen'd, which is, as our Author expresses it, a very great Good; therefore the taking away eight or ten Ounces of Blood in the beginning of a Fever, is a great Good, which is what was to be demonstrated.

But because in this Place, viz. P. 78. the Doctor seems willing to offer some Grounds for his Belief, which he very seldom does, let us see of what kind they are. The first immediately follows the Sentence last quoted, and is this---*The taking six, eight or ten Ounces of Blood, in the beginning of a Fever, cannot void (as he calls it) any Morbifick Matter out of the Blood, take notice of his Reason, for no more of that can come than what is in that Blood that is let out.*

What can the Doctor mean by amusing the World with such palpable Contradictions? By affirming that no more of the morbid Matter can be evacuated, than what is in the Blood that

that is let out, he plainly acknowledges that some of it is discharged, and yet he contradicts himself with the same Breath, and says, *Venesecti-*on cannot void any morbidick Matter. Again, our Author intimates here, that he is of Opinion, that the morbidick Matter is some strange Monster entirely different from the Mass of Blood it self; whereas the *learned Doctor* is very much mistaken, for 'tis no more than that Fluid so altered as to Quantity or Quality (namely, as to the Figure, Cohesion, Bulk, or Motion of its Particles) that the Animal Secretions cannot be duly performed.

His second Argument is couch'd in the Sentence ensuing the former, and a doughty one it is! namely, *Venesecti-*on cannot do any good for promoting the Circulation of the Blood (pray observe his Reason) for there is no Difficulty of Circulation in the Veins, but in the Arteries, from the Obstruction that generally is in Fevers.

The



The Stupidity of this Objection, which by him I find is accounted an invincible Argument, is so very apparent at first Sight, that the bare mentioning of it, is sufficient to expose it to any that are in the least acquainted with the Structure and Mechanism of an animal Body. The Veins are no more than the Arteries revers'd, for where an Artery ends, there a Vein begins, so that the Artery and Vein make up one continued Canal, from the Heart to the Extremity, and from the Extremity to the Heart again. These continued Canals, namely, Arteries and Veins, are continually full, hence it is that at every Contraction of the Heart, the Pulse at the same Time is felt over the whole Body: Now supposing a Quantity of Blood to be drawn from any Vein, it necessarily must follow, that the Blood contain'd in the corresponding Artery, to which that Vein is a Continuation, must meet with less Resistance, consequently its Motion in the Ar-

Arterial Vessel must be very much increased, therefore its Viscidity is remov'd, and the Obstruction is taken off; hence it must of Consequence be allowed, that breathing a Vein will certainly promote the Circulation, altho' we suppose the Obstructions consist in the Arteries only.

His third Argument against Venesection is this—*Nor can it much affect the nervous Juice.*

For the Support of this Assertion, the Doctor has assigned no Reason; wherefore if I should barely deny it, and so put him upon the Proof of it, it would be sufficiently answered; however, that the Publick may see what a Philosopher he is, and how fit to dictate in the physical Way, it will be proper to observe, that our Author himself allows that in a Fever, there is an overbearing Quantity of Fluids; to what purpose else does he recommend such copious Evacuations by Sweat; and again, that these Fluids are viscid, for

for if he was not of this Opinion, he would never press so earnestly upon us to enter into his Method of drinking cold Water, which he says, P. 30. In his old Method-----*He believes to be the most innocent and yet most powerful Aperient, unless we may except Mercury.* Now by the former, namely, the Plethora, the small Capillary Arteries of the cortical and medullary Substance of the Brain, must of Necessity be very much compressed, since the larger are so much distended; and by the latter, namely, the Viscidity of the circulating Fluids, the Blood is abundantly too gross to pass freely through the said cortical Substance, whence the Secretion of the Spirits cannot possibly be duly performed. In Consideration therefore that Venesection removes, as I have already demonstrated, both the too great Compression of the Capillary Arteries, and the Viscidity of the Blood, it must be undeniably granted, that Venesection very much affects the nervous Juice. In

Febrifugum Magnum. 33

In P. 71. and the two ensuing, our *Water-Doctor* furiously attacks the *No-tion of Concoction*. That we may therefore be apprised of the Force of his Reasoning, it will not, I am apt to believe, be amiss to relate his Arguments.

In P. 72. He informs us in his usual way of Reasoning---*I think I may say, there neither is nor can be any such Concoction of the febrifick Matter in the Blood---*Be attentive, for as it would totally stop the Circulation, so 'tis impossible such Matter should ever get through the Capillary Arteries, &c. so as to be carried off either by insensible or sensible Perspiration.

In this Sentence the Reverend Doctor has committed several Blunders. First, He contradicts himself. A little above in the same Page, he says, *Physicians only watch over some violent and dangerous Symptoms till they observe some Signs of Concoction*; from which it is evident, that he here plainly allows

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that

that there is a Concoction, and that 'tis manifest by some Signs; yet in the very same Moment he opposes himself, and affirms that 'tis impossible that there can be a Concoction; if this be not a manifest Contradiction, let the Reader determine: I should therefore be very much pleased, if the ingenious Doctor would take some Pains to unravel this Mystery, and render his Performance consistent with it self.

In the next Place, he supposes that the morbidick Matter is something widely different from the Mass of Blood it self. And, Thirdly, he is of Opinion, that Concoction is some Action no Way consequent upon the Circulation, but on the contrary, entirely opposite to it. Both which are the Chimeras of his own Brain, and have no Foundation in the Nature of Things.

The Blood is an heterogeneous Fluid, compos'd of different kinds of Particles, possess'd of different sorts of Figure, and various Degrees of Bulk, Soli-

Febrifugum Magnum. 33

Solidity, and Attraction, consequently susceptible of different Degrees of Motion, and capable when mov'd to make different Impressions upon one another, as also upon the Canals through which they circulate. Whenever therefore the whole Mass is so chang'd as to Quantity or Motion, or when the Particles of which it is compos'd are so alter'd as to Bulk, Solidity, Figure or Motion, that the wonted Secretions cannot be duly performed, the Body is then in a morbid State; the circulating Fluids thus chang'd, are the morbidick Matter, and this State of the Disorder is the State of Crudity. But when by the Force of the Heart impelling, the Assistance of the Air in Respiration, the Elasticity of the Vessels, in which the Humours move, and the Influence of the Medicines administred, the Particles of the morbidick Matter are so chang'd in every Circumstance, as to be fit to pass through the different secrening Canals, Concoction is

then perform'd, which in other Words is no more than such a Change of the Particles as I have already mention'd. 'Tis plain therefore, that there is a Concoction, that it does not stop the Circulation, that this Concoction is made in the Arteries, that the morbidick Matter is the very Blood it self, and that by Concoction the Particles of the morbidick Matter are so chang'd, as to be fit to get through the Capillary Arteries, both by insensible and sensible Perspiration.

But to give a more extensive View of the Force of his Reasoning, 'tis only necessary to take into Consideration the following Instance: P. 73. wherein he gives us this Account; *Dr. Sydenham says, Concoction is the Separation of the morbidick Matter from that which is sound and healthful: For Goodness sake let us hear his Method of Arguing upon this; If he means in the Blood, such Separation would make the Matter worse, and the Fever more dangerous. If he*
means

Febrifugum Magnum. 37

means that which is carried out of the Blood, where is his Notion of Concoction?

Our Author egregiously mistakes Dr. Sydenham in this Place, consequently forms a *Chimera* of his own, against which he has planted his inconsiderable Battery. Instead therefore of opposing the Notion of Concoction, he only exposes to Ridicule his own Mistake. Dr. Sydenham, in this Place, by Concoction, does not mention the Change of the morbidick Matter, as to Bulk, Figure, Cohesion, Solidity, Mobility, &c. so as to render it fit to pass thro' the secerning Vessels, which is properly Concoction, and previously necessary for a due Separation; but the very Critical Evacuation it self of the morbidick Matter after Concoction has been made.

But for once let us humour the Reverend Gentleman, and suppose with him that Dr. Sydenham meant as he says; yet from thence it does not at all follow, that, tho' this Separation or
Con-

Concoction be made in the Blood, it should make the Matter worse, and the Fever more dangerous; for Concoction is an Action proceeding from the Force of Nature conquering the Disease, how therefore can that which is in some Measure subdued, become possessed of greater Power than before, since its Efficacy gradually decreases, and the Strength of the Force overcoming is proportionably advanced? This his Argument therefore can no Way support the Cause for which he designed it.

His other, namely, ----- *If he means that (I suppose the Words Morbifick Matter must be understood here) which is carried out of the Blood, where is his Notion of Concoction.*

Why, where it was before. For if Part of the morbifick Matter be separated from the Blood, or carried out of it, as he expresses it, it must have been fitted for that Separation, or in other Words, it must have been concocted,

Febrifugum Magnū. 99

cocted, or so changed, as to Bulk, &c. as to be discharged through the several fecerning Canals, consequently the remaining Quantity of Humours must be less, and the Force of Nature so much the stronger.

In the same Page he proceeds thus, in his old accustomed Manner,-----*I believe the morbidick Matter in the Blood, never is nor can be, while it circulates in the Blood, so thick, or of such gross Parts, but they are fit enough to go out by Sweat, if the natural Secretion were not stoppt by the Violence of the Fever.*

What does the Doctor mean by this Way of talking? Because forsooth he tells us, *he believes it*, does it therefore necessarily follow that all Mankind must believe it too? I could wish our reverend Sire had been so complaisant as to apprise the World of the Grounds upon which he has established his Belief, that we might have known whether they be sufficient to engage us to concur in the same. I would fain know
what

what the Doctor's Opinion of a Fever is, namely, whether it be primarily an Effect or a Cause. If he takes it to be an Effect, as I am somewhat inclinable to believe he will scarcely deny; it certainly must be produced by something either external, from the Application of which, the Canals are primarily affected; or internal, which first influences the Fluids. By either Way there must be something retained within the Body, which disorders the natural Secretions, whence a Fever takes its rise; for if it be not retained, it cannot possibly disturb, since all Action of Bodies is by immediate Contact, and what is not present cannot act. 'Tis therefore very obvious, from the Disorders raised in the Animal Oeconomy, that the Particles of the morbid Matter are so thick, and gross, that they cannot pass through the different Strainers; for cou'd they be eliminated, there would be no Disease; hence arises a *Pletthora*, consequently Obstructions, and a greater

Febrifugum Magnum. 41

er Viscidity. Thence the Circuit for the Fluids become shorter, and therefore their Return to the Heart is quicker, the Vessels are distended, and the Heat of the whole Body is greater ; or in a Word, a Fever is raised. Therefore a Fever is at first occasioned by the Grossness of the morbidick Matter retained, and this Viscidity is afterwards augmented by the Violence of the Fever, which is the Proposition that was to be proved.

III. Thus far I have traced our Author in the Explication or Account of the Matters upon which he has founded the whole of his Performance ; whatever else is in his long Pamphlet, is only a Catalogue of Cures performed by the Efficacy of cold Water, or a List of such Diseases in which he has had no Experience, but *verily believes* that it will prove advantageous.

G

Had

Had the Doctor been truly apprised of the Truth of what he mentions, P. 10, and 11. viz. *We may reason a little upon our Experience, and Reason will help us to apply our Experience to parallel Cases; but then we must be pretty sure the Cases are parallel; I say, if he had duly considered this, he scarcely would have ventured to publish his Farrago. Can the Doctor imagine, that every one who reads his Book, is capable of knowing whether his Case is exactly parallel with the Cases before-mention'd, wherein he says Cold Water has made a Cure? I assure him, there is no Possibility of any such thing, for his Accounts of Matters are so confus'd, injudicious, and imperfect, that it is impossible that even a Physician should give a proper Determination in the Affair. For the Proof of this I will here insert only one Case, as a Specimen, according as he has given us the Relation.*

The first that I shall mention is in P. 22. wherein he delivers this Account.

---There

--- There was a Woman in our Neighbourhood that fell ill, and died of a most malignant Fever. The Women that came about her, stiched not to say, it was little better than the Plague. Her Husband then kept a Coffee-House. There was an Acquaintance of mine to whom I had told my Experience (which I often did to several, tho' few regarded it) that was then drinking a Dish of Coffee at his House. The Man, while the Clergy-man was there, fell ill with the most violent Symptoms that use to happen in the beginning of malignant Fevers. The Man own'd himself to be much worse than his Wife was when she began to be ill, and said he should certainly die. The Clergy-man perswaded him to go to Bed, and said he thought he could cure him: The Man thought he banter'd him; but was at last perswaded to go to Bed. He brought him up a Quart of Water, and made him drink it off: He fell into a violent Sweat in a little time, sweat all Day, and the next Day was well.

If therefore, as 'tis evident all Persons that either read his Treatise, or hear of his Experience this way, are not capacitated for making such a Trial, what must the Publick think of the Doctor's Judgment and Prudence, who so earnestly presses upon all to make repeated Trials of his Experiment, and seems to question the Wisdom of such as do not readily engage in his Method of Dabbling? For in P. 24. he appears to be in a Passion, and says,---*He is no wise Man that hears what I assert, and believes it, that will neglect it too long, and make an Experiment upon himself, or any body else.* Since then, as the Doctor himself acknowledges in his own beautiful manner of Expression, P. 77. ---*Fevers are such tickle things, and the good or bad Success the Physician has in the Cure of them, depends upon so many accidental things, that he believes 'tis hard for the most judicious Physician to make any well established Observation, when Bleeding does good or hurt.* May it not
rea-

reasonably be demanded, Is it not abundantly difficult upon the same Account for an illiterate Person to determine exactly, when Water administred as he directs will accomplish what he expects? Are there not a Variety of Circumstances in one and the same Disease, that call for a very different manner of Treatment? Shall Mankind therefore be so senseless to venture their Health, Life, and all that is dear and valuable, upon such precarious a footing? There is indeed a Possibility that cold Water, when duly administred by a prudent Physician, in proper Circumstances, may be very serviceable. But if it be not prescrib'd under proper Limitations, what will be the Consequence but certain Death, a lingering Sickness, or a ruin'd Constitution? How can the Doctor therefore excuse himself, when after a serious Reflection he must be oblig'd to own that many will fall (unless happily prevented) a Sacrifice to his imprudent Zeal, and their own Folly,
and

and leave their Relations and Friends imprecating the Almighty's Vengeance upon the QUACK for publishing his rude and indigested Notions. The which is of a far more fatal Consequence, than what he Imagines in his Preface, *viz.* --- *That if upon a fair Trial (which is all he desires) it be found to fail, he must bear the Disgrace of amusing the World with such a Proposal.*

There is certainly what the Physicians call an *Idiosyncrasy*, or such a particular Disposition in the Fluids and Canals, peculiar to each, as renders the Actions, Functions, Operations, Passions, Inclinations, Appetites, and Aversions, in one prodigiously different from what they are in others; hence it is that tho' the same Disease should seize several at the same Time, whosoever will undertake to manage all exactly alike, will find himself wretchedly mistaken; so true it is, that *what is a Remedy to one will prove Poison to another* in the same Disease, and
in

Febrifugum Magnum. 47

in the same State of that Disease.

Than the *Cortex* there is not certainly a more noble Medicine for the Cure of Agues, yet how often do we find the usual Doses of the best Sort of it so far from being successful, that the Repetition of it is of dangerous Consequence? Who then are the proper Persons for determining this Case, but the experienced Physician, who by a just Collation of the Circumstances, will be quickly apprised of the Advantage or Danger that will ensue. Since therefore this is undeniable; who but a Madman, altho' he has so often heard the Bark celebrated for the Cure of Agues, will venture upon the Use of it without proper Advice. The Knowledge of the common Operation of Medicines is no Secret, every Apothecary and old Woman, even the renowned *Wen*, and *French* Empirick in *Spittle-fields*, know that both *Jalap* and *Manna* will purge, but yet such puny Creatures as these, cannot distinguish the Cases in which

48 REMARKS on

which the one will be of Advantage, and the other not. No, this is a Matter too abstruse for their weak Heads, the Decision of this Point requires besides an exact Knowledge of the Disease it self, in all the different Circumstances of Causes, Time and Symptoms, a proper Acquaintance of the Structure of the Parts affected, and a perfect Idea of the Medicine it self, as to the Analysis of its component Parts, and the Influence such and such Particles will have either upon the Solids and Fluids, when administred. Hence I believe 'tis pretty apparent, that 'tis the Philosopher only that is fit to engage in the Administration of Physick.

Was there no other Objection than the Nature of our Climate, it would be sufficient to banish this Method from among us; the Seasons of our Years are too temperate, and the Constitutions of our Bodies are too moderate, to admit of the Practice indifferently. I do not deny, but that
there

Febrifugum Magnum. 49

there may be some Circumstances in which the Use of cold Water given as a Sweat will effect a Cure, but must we upon this run a madding, and therefore prescribe it in all? No certainly, for as the Judicious *Horace* expresses it,

*Est modus in rebus sunt certi denique fines,
Quos ultra citraque nequit consistere rectum.*

Sure, if, as the Doctor boasts, he had read Physick so long, he might have been better informed than to entertain a Notion that any one Medicine can be always effectual in any Disease. As the same Disorder takes its rise from various and contrary Causes, the Method of Cure must be also varied. In this therefore the Physician and the Empirick are different, the former acts by a rational Deduction drawn from evident Principles, and the latter depending entirely upon his own Experiments, hit or miss, will venture without the concurring Assistance of Reason.

H

The

The Surgeons indeed may be thankful to the Doctor for his Performance, and vigorously espouse his Cause; for if his Method be put in Practice, no small Advantage will accrue to them. By repeated Draughts of cold Water, the Spring of the Solids will be much impaired, and the Motion of the Fluids will consequently be slacken'd, whence the Force of Nature being weaken'd, Abscesses, Apostems, Oedematous Tumours, and such like Disorders, must take their Rise, and notwithstanding his beloved Sentence;

Quo sedatior est Sanguis, eo melius erumpent Pustulae.

The Doctor will find himself in a miserable Mistake. A Fever is an Effort of Nature, to throw off something that is offensive; if Nature therefore be so far oppress'd by his cold Water, that it cannot make proper Efforts, what will be the Consequence, but an extreme Laxity of the Vessels, and too great an Effu-

Febrifugum Magnum. 51

Effusion of the Juices, whence arise *colloquative* Sweats, extreme Languor, Dropsies, Cachexies, Fluxes, loss of Appetite, Faintings, Gangrenes, and Death. A mean is best in all Things. Too much may be done as well as too little, and every Person is not a proper Judge in those Affairs. 'Tis therefore abundantly more prudent to abstain from that which may prove detrimental, than to run the Hazard of its proving advantageous.

Our Doctor and all his Family, except his *Wife* (for of her I find not the least Mention in the whole Pamphlet, as any way affected by cold Water) are of a hot and fiery Constitution, and therefore found Benefit by the Use of cold Water. But this is no Consequence that all are of the same Disposition, and must therefore make Use of cold Water. If the Doctor's Logick is no better than this, I find he has made as little Advantage by *Aristotle*, as he has done by *Bellini*. Where-

fore I would advise him, before he writes again, to make himself Master of *Malbranch's Search after Truth*. *Lock's Essay of Human Understanding*. *Norris's Ideal World*; and *the Art of Thinking*. By these his reasoning Faculty will be somewhat enlighten'd, and his Judgment better form'd, both for the Study of Theology, and the Theory of Physick.

Having proceeded thus far in shewing the Erroneousness of the Doctor's Notions, and the apparent Danger consequent upon this Method, I shall only insert a Passage or two, where his Judgment, and Regard for the Health of his Fellow-Creatures, will appear in a more perfect Light.

In P. 29. He informs us thus,---As to the Cure of Quartan Agues, I have no Experience, but I as verily believe that such a Quantity of cold Water taken as I have directed, would in some Time cure the most obstinate Quartan, as if I had seen it, tho' I cannot so positively assert it.

What

What a Heap of inconsistent Jargon is there here ! He asserts the Proposition as positively as 'tis possible for any one to assert, and yet he tells us he cannot so positively assert it. He informs us, that he as verily believes that such a Quantity of cold Water taken as he directs, would in some Time cure the most obstinate Quartan, as if he had seen it ; altho' with the very same Breath he allows that he has had no Experience of it ; for by the By, his Experience is not only such as he himself has been engaged in, but also such as has been related to him. I could wish the good Doctor would unfold us this Mystery. If Faith or Belief be the Assent of the Mind given to the Testimony of another, how is it possible for him to believe that which was never related to him by another ? If he has any sound substantial Reasons drawn from the Nature of the Disorder and Medicine, how can he say that he believes the Proposition thus supported,

ported, since such is not the Object of Faith or Belief, but real Knowledge. But by the way, if he has had any such Reasons, how came it that he did not discover them to the Publick. And since he has not imparted them, how can he suppose that any will give their Assent to what he says, since he affirms that he has had no Experience, nor has taken the Pains to convince them with the same Reasons by which he was oblig'd to yield his Assent? Lastly, Supposing that he had seen a very obstinate Quartan cur'd by the Use of cold Water, as he directs, I would fain know whether he would not positively assert it? He answers he would as freely in this as in the other Cases. I therefore desire to know what is the Reason that he cannot so positively assert it, since he tells me that he as verily believes it as if he had seen it. As a further Instance of his surprising Method of Reasoning, and Concern for the Welfare of Mankind, take the

Febrifugum Magnum. 55

the following Sentence, which immediately succeeds what was quoted last out of P. 29.-----*He believes that there is nothing commonly known that will do more Good in the Case of an obstinate Quartan, than cold Water taken as he has directed; or if it should fail of curing, do less Hurt than this. Take it as often as you will, whether it work the Cure or not.*

In order to engage us to observe his Directions, he tells us in his own elegant Way, that-----*He dares pawn all that he is worth, it will do no Body any Harm.*

A Philosophical Way of Reasoning indeed, and very proper to prevail with People to run the risque of their Health and Life! He believes, but the Jest is, he has no Experience to ground his Belief upon; how therefore can he be so urgent in advising the Ignorant to run such Hazards? The Reason is obvious; the whole of his Studies depend upon Belief, so by a Custom this Way, he

56 REMARKS on

he has got a Habit, and enlarged his Conscience so far, as to believe any Thing, even in Matters Philosophical; altho' he has no Grounds for it. Now being conversant in perswading the Populace to entertain his Articles of Faith in religious Affairs, he can't forget his old Practice, but must inculcate what he entertains in Relation to Physick upon others also; and for Want of a better Reason, will venture to lay Wagers, and pawn all that he is worth. This puts me in Mind of the following Lines in *Hudibras*.

I have often heard from Antient Stagers.

That Fools for Argument lay Wagers.

I hope that this is not the Doctor's Case, and therefore expect that the Author of *Febrifugum Magnum* will take Care to employ six or ten Months more in the Study of Physick, before he ventures to publish any Thing again, that we may find in his Performance some better

Febrifugum Magnum. 57

better kind of Reason than I think, I verily believe, &c.

In P. 47. He turns from Matters Physical to the common Affairs of Life, and very generously tells us, P. 48. That when he was spent and fatigued, he very much wanted something to refresh him, and take off his Weariness. He drank Canary, Malaga, and Tent, for many Tears; as also strong Ale warm'd, and small Beer, but none of these answered his end, till he came to the Knowledge of the Virtues of Water. Then he try'd another Experiment upon Water. He cut a large thin Slice of Bread, toasted it carefully and thoroughly, without burning, put it hot from the Fire in a Pint of cold Water, let it stand a while, and then set it on the Fire till it was as hot as one would drink Tea. This thus managed, will refresh him more, and take off any Fatigue or Weariness, sooner than any strong Wines, strong Ale, small Beer warm'd, Coffee or Tea (for he has try'd them all) or any other Liquor that he
I knows

knows of. And in another Place, out of a tender Concern for Running-footmen, he tells us, *Were he to run for a Wager, let others choose what Liquor they please, Water should be his.*

Much good may he have with his Toast and Water, since it agrees so well with him; however this is no satisfactory Proof that it will be equally beneficial to all; for what our Proverb remarks is very just, *viz. What is one Man's Meat is another's Poison.* So with equal Appearance of Truth, I may assert, what has prov'd a Medicine to him, will be the Destruction of others, if uncautiously us'd. But by the By, it may not be improper to put him in Mind of the Apostle's Advice to *Timothy*, *viz. Mix a little Wine with thy Water for thy Stomach Sake.* He must remember, that he is now near the Decline of Life, and that the Infirmities of Age demand a moderate Glass. Besides this, there is another Reason, namely, the brightning his Fancy, and strength-

Febrifugum Magnum. 59

Strengthening his Judgment, for as sure as the following Lines, which are the Judgment of Gentlemen who have been a little better acquainted with the Theory and Practice of Physick than ever our Reverend Doctor was, are Matter of Fact, viz.

*Potus Aqua sumptus comedenti incommoda
præstat,*

Hinc friget Stomachus crudus & inde Cibus.

So sure is that also true which old *Crato* mentions as quoted by our old Friend *Horace*.

*Nulla placere diu, nec vivere Carmina possunt,
Quæ scribentur Aquæ potoribus*——.

This I am inclinable to believe is the Reason that poor *Febrifugum Magnum* appears in the World with such a homely Dress: That the Beauties of *Celsus*, the Reasonings of *Bellini*, the Observations of *Malpighi*, and the Wit of *Pitcairne*, is entirely wanting, that

we cannot discern any thing of *Aristotle's Organon*, of *Suarez's Metaphysics*, nor *Keil's Introduction*. Had but some of the Smoothness of *Cicero*, the manly Force of *Demosthenes*, or even the glaring outside Shew of *Isocrates* himself been observed, *Febrifugum Magnum* might possibly have surviv'd his Parent. But O the unhappy Fate, 'tis now a gasping ! A suffocating Catarrh has seiz'd its Vitals ! And tho' the good old Doctor should now exert his utmost Efforts, wretched *Febrifugum Magnum* must certainly fall ! In vain does he strive to wring its Nose to divert the Defluxion ! In vain does he drench its Bowels in his beloved Toast and Water ! Nay, stew'd Prunes themselves are of no Efficacy ! All these are vain Efforts ! They only contribute the more to its Destruction, and jointly conspire to accomplish its End !

And no Wonder such should be its Fate, since all Mankind, as well as the facetious *Horace*, allow that Wine,

Spes

Febrifugum Magnum.

61

Spēs jubet esse ratas; in praelia cruditi inermes,

Sollicitis animis onus eximit addocet Artes.

How therefore can we expect to see any bright or judicious, when the Motion of the Fluids is slow, the Bulk of the Particles gross, the Spring of the Solids broken, and the Quantity of animal Spirits but very small; all which are the natural Consequences of repeated Draughts of Water, and Dulness the constant Offspring of these; so true is that Sentence of Galen-----*Mores animi sequuntur temperamenta corporis.*

Once more therefore, that the Publick may be better informed, and distant Nations may envy *England* on Account of our Author, I beg Leave to advise him to lay aside his Toast and Water, and the Use of cold Water, and moderately use the Juice of the Grape; for,

Fæ-

Facundi calices quem non facere disertum?

Had this been his Method instead of the former, I'm sure the Doctor, and Wiggins the Shoemaker, had never appear'd to agree so well in their Style and Manner of Writing; for the Proof of which, I will take Care to insert an History or two from each, that the Curious, after an exact Observation of their Style, and Manner, may candidly determine which of the two Authors merits the greater Share of Applause.

In *Febrifugum Magnum*, P. 21. you will find this History.

I had a Son of my own that sometimes in the Night fell ill, as his Brothers who lay in the same Chamber with him told me after, he had such Tremblings and Shiverings, that the very Bed shook under him most Part of the Night. They--pray observe--(as Children use to do) told

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Febrifugum Magnum. 63

me nothing of it; in the Morning he got
up and came down; in half an Hour's
time he fell down in such a Condition,
that we thought he would have died
upon the Spot. We carried him up to
Bed; as soon as he was come to him-
self I made him drink half a Pint of
cold Water; he in a little Time fell
into a plentiful Sweat: He sweat all
Day long, in such a Manner as I have
seldom ever seen any do; at Night
his Sweat went off; he had sweat so
as not to drench his Shift and the
Sheets only, but the very Bed under
him. We shifted him carefully, and
the next Morning he seem'd to be
very well, and began to call for
Meat; we kept him up for two Days.
The next Morning after, he was so
well that I thought he might come
down; he did so. But the two Doors
of the Entry happening to be open,
and the Wind very strong, it happen'd
to blow so violently upon him, that
I believe he took Cold, for in an
Hour's

‘ Hour’s Time he fell as ill almost as
 ‘ before. I put him to Bed again, gave
 ‘ him cold Water as before : He sweat
 ‘ upon the Matter as violently as be-
 ‘ fore. At, or some Time before Night
 ‘ the Sweat went off. We took Care
 ‘ of him, and the next Morning with-
 ‘ out Sweating at all in the Night, he
 ‘ was very well again.-----

In *Wiggins’s* Catalogue, P. 3. you
 have the following History.

“ Mr. *Flackson* in *White-Lyon-Tard*
 “ near *Spittle-Fields*, was so ill of the
 “ Rheumatism, Pleurisy, Fever, and
 “ Fits, and so choak’d up with Phlegm,
 “ that he could not move Hand nor
 “ Foot, and his Wife was told by a
 “ Physician he was a dead Man ; but
 “ some that were present advised him
 “ to send for me, and told him that I
 “ had cured many of his Neighbours,
 “ &c. that were in as bad a Condi-
 “ tion as he. When I came, I found a
 “ Room full of People, lamenting o-
 “ ver him as past Recovery ; but to
 “ their

Febrifugum Magnum. 65

“ their great Amazement I gave him
“ Ease in two Hours, and in six Days
“ cur’d him.

The second History from *Febrifugum Magnum*, is in P. 29. and is as follows.

‘ The other Instance I had from a
‘ Person of Quality, with whom I had
‘ often discoursed of my Experience in
‘ this Case. He told me he met a poor
‘ Man in the Street, who looked piti-
‘ fully; I suppose he gave him some
‘ Charity; and enquiring what made
‘ him look so ill, the poor Man told
‘ him he had had an Ague for half a
‘ Year, and that it had brought him
‘ very low. The Gentleman advised
‘ him the next Time his Fit came on, to
‘ go to Bed and take such a Quantity
‘ of cold Water, and directed him what
‘ to do.

‘ Some Time after he met him again,
‘ and the Gentleman finding he look-
‘ ed well, enquired of him whether he
‘ had done as he directed him. The
‘ poor Man told him he had, and that

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‘ it

66 R E M A R K S ON

‘ it took off his Ague at the second Fit,
 ‘ that is, at twice taking it. I had this
 ‘ Account from the worthy Knight him-
 ‘ self.

The next from *Wiggins* is in P. 4.
 as follows,

“ One Mr. *Harris* a Painter in Cree-
 “ Church-Yard, was so bad with the
 “ Gout in his Stomach, that by all the
 “ Art they us’d, nothing would go thro’
 “ him, tho’ he had taken four Doses of
 “ Physick, and two Glysters, and o-
 “ ther Things. At last Mrs. *Harris*
 “ calling to Mind I had cured her Bro-
 “ ther, after he had lain 3 quarters of
 “ a Year lame of the Gout, and in all
 “ that Time was not able to go up
 “ Stairs without Help : She sent for me,
 “ and tho’ her Husband was so far
 “ spent that he could hardly speak, I cu-
 “ red him so well that he went to
 “ work in four Days.

The last that I shall mention from
 Dr. *Hancock*, is in P. 53. and is this.

Febrifugum Magnum. 67

‘ I have likewise had some Experi-
‘ ence of cold Water, that I think
‘ plainly shews it must be good in Asthma’s of any kind, whether *Dyspnoe-*
‘ *as*, those more properly call’d Asthma’s,
‘ or such a Degree of an Asthma as is
‘ call’d *Orthopnoea*, where the Patient
‘ is in Danger of Suffocation, if he lie
‘ down, or indeed in any Difficulty of
‘ Respiration, from whatever Cause it
‘ proceeds.

The third from *Wiggins* is in P. 7.
and is thus expressed.

“ In the Cholick, sick or fainting
“ Fits, or Suffocation in the Stomach,
“ I give present Ease, let it proceed
“ from what Cause soever; Therefore
“ let none despair of Help; for by the
“ Blessing of God I will relieve them
“ by a pleasant Drink, which is to be
“ taken as follows: Let weak Consti-
“ tutions take a Quarter of a Pint two
“ or three times a Day, Blood-warm,
“ and those that are stronger may take
“ half a Pint two or three time a Day,
“ more

" more or less, as Occasion requires.

From the whole, I am inclinable to believe, it appears pretty plain, that Dr. *Hancock* and *Wiggins* are much upon an Equality, in relation to Language and Physick; and that the latter has as many Instances to advance the Character of his Diet-Drink, being in Number above twenty eight, as the other has for recommending his cold Water. I therefore refer it to the Publick, to determine whether either of them is deserving of any Applause, or which of them is to be rather trusted in Matters which neither seem to have any Notion of.

FINIS

